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in composition and functions. On the other hand, it is clearly an error to say that the High Commission Court was first made permanent in 1583. The commission of that year, of which no copy exists, was probably not essentially different in this regard from those of 1576 and 1601, or from any of those issued by the first two Stuarts. In fact the Court was as "permanently" organized under the first commission of 1559 as it ever was. Even the authority by which the celebrated oath *ex officio* was administered was then granted. Perhaps the best part of Professor Terry's book is that devoted to the Puritan Revolution and the interregnum. Here he has based his discussion mainly on the documents comprised in Gardiner's convenient collection, and the results are gratifying. Cromwell's greatness of character and the striking modernness of his views are properly appreciated.

Part IV., devoted to "Imperial England. The Era of National Expansion," brings the narrative down to the close of the nineteenth century (pp. 805-1068). The long course of social, economic and political growth and reform is carefully traced. There is, however, a singular omission, considering the author's avowed purpose of accenting the history of institutions, and considering the space devoted to it in the Saxon period. With the exception of passing references to manors, courts and towns, local institutions are practically dropped after the Norman Conquest. The parish, for instance, save for a notice of the newly created parish councils, is entirely ignored. The same is true of the quarter sessions, the poor law union, the municipal borough, and the various local boards which have arisen in recent times. Furthermore, one searches in vain for an account of Cabinet government, the ministerial system, or the modern Houses of Parliament. The book is provided with a table of contents and a good index.

GEORGE ELLIOTT HOWARD.

Owen Glyndwr and the Last Struggle for Welsh Independence.

By ARTHUR GRANVILLE BRADLEY. [Heroes of the Nations Series.] (New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1901. Pp. 357.)

THE title of the series to which Mr. Bradley's book belongs imposes upon him the necessity of a certain amount of glorification of his subject, and prevents criticism of that subject's character, at least to the extent of depriving it of the element of heroism. Except for this necessity, more might certainly have been said of the purposelessness of Glyndwr's rising, of its destructiveness, of its lack of any constructive elements. The revolt of which he was the leader, if not the creator, seems like a tidal wave; as obscure in its causes, as resistless in its devastating progress, as futile in its reflux. Yet the same thing would have been said of the work of Wallace and Bruce, if this had not been justified by an ultimate success, and the man is none the less a hero in spirit because he labored for a losing cause.

Glyndwr emerges from the obscurity of the petty Welsh gentry, marked only by the possession of some of the old Cymric princely blood, and by a personal vigor and charm which afterwards drew many strange allies to him. He resisted the power of the Marcher barons, awakened the half-sleeping national spirit of the Welsh peasantry, utilized their always wakeful love of plunder, and for five years kept Wales swept reasonably clear of Englishmen, except in as far as they were ensconced in their castles or engaged in rapid and futile marches across the country. Then the perseverance of Henry IV. and the young Prince of Wales backed by the superior numbers, wealth, organization, and equipment of England made itself gradually felt, till Glyndwr was at last driven into exile and the Welsh again reduced to obedience. These events are told in this book with a clearness, reasonableness and fullness greater than anywhere else. It seems impossible that anything about his hero could have escaped Mr. Bradley's minute search, and impracticable for the known facts to have been grouped so as to tell the story better. In fact, Mr. Bradley is inclined to accept mere later traditions even too readily, on the ground that it might have been true, and in the paucity of definite contemporary statements. More than once, what has been admitted in the first place as a suggestion or a mere possibility comes in after discussion to be treated as an established fact.

The narrative is flanked by an introductory and a concluding chapter intended to trace the development of Wales up to the beginning of Owen's rising, and to follow its main fortunes since the close of that episode. In still another way Mr. Bradley has done much to make the surroundings of Glyndwr seem real. There is a fine picturesqueness in all his descriptions of the country in which the events took place. Scarcely a place is mentioned without some visual touch of description which shows that the author has seen it in person, and in many cases an excellent photographic reproduction of its modern appearance is given. Wales itself therefore is real enough. Yet for all this completeness of statement and conscientious and skilful use of the sources, Glyndwr remains a very shadowy personality. He was a national hero because he embodied and led a national rising, and because his name has been retained by the long memory of the Welsh. All that we can know of him is well told in this book, but even here there is nothing very tangible to set over against the wizard of Shakespeare's *Henry IV.*

E. P. CHEYNEY.

Registres du Conseil de Genève. Tome I. 1409-1461. (Vols. 1-4.)
Publié par ÉMILE RIVOIRE. (Geneva: Kündig. 1900. Pp. ix,
558.)

PUBLISHED under the auspices of the scholarly Société d'Histoire et d'Archéologie de Genève, this is an accurate and complete reprint of the first four volumes extant of the transactions of the *consilium ordinarium*, and the two larger councils of Geneva. The following facts drawn from